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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, October 18, 1995)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and Lord of our lives, our purpose is to glorify You by serving our Nation. We want to express an energetic earnestness about our work today. Help us to know what You want and then want what we know; to say what we mean, and mean what we say. Give us resoluteness and intentionality. Free us to listen to You so intently that we can speak with intrepidity. Keep us in the battle for truth rather than ego-skirmishes over secondary issues. Make us party to Your plans so we can give leadership to our parties and then help our parties to work together to accomplish Your purposes. Make us one in the earnestness of our patriotism.

Thank You for calling this Senate family to be a caring community in which we share each other's joys and sorrows. Today, we ask for Your strength and comfort for Senator CHARLES ROBB now at the time of the death of his father. Help us all to live today with an assurance that this life is but an inch on the limitless measurement of eternity. In the name of the Resurrection and the Life. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Kansas is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, today, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10:30 a.m.

At 10:30, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 927, the Cuba sanctions bill, with Senator DODD to be recognized to offer his two amendments. The only remaining amendment in order to the bill is the Simon amendment No. 2934, which has a 20-minute time limitation.

Therefore, it is expected that the Senate will complete action on the bill early this afternoon.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Under that previous order, the Senator from Kansas [Mrs. KASSEBAUM] is recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Yes.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might be granted 10 minutes to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

STUDENT LOANS AND BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, the other evening, the majority leader, Senator DOLE, spoke about the opportunities which the GI bill provided to thousands of Americans following World War II. Enactment of the GI bill in 1944 marked the beginning of Federal efforts to open the door to postsecondary education for individuals

who would otherwise be unable to attend. Over the past 50 years, the scope and variety of Federal student aid programs have expanded considerably. Today, any student in need of financial help can obtain it.

My reason for addressing the Senate now is to dispel the notion that, somehow, all this will change if Congress enacts student loan changes as part of the budget reconciliation bill. Unfortunately, misconceptions about this legislation are widespread, and I believe it is important to set the record straight.

A few weeks ago, the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources reported its portion of this legislation, providing Federal student loan savings of \$10.85 billion over 7 years. Because the Federal student loan program is one of the few mandatory spending programs under the jurisdiction of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, it was the only place we had to turn in order to comply with our instruction.

Granted, \$10.85 billion is a substantial sum over 7 years. However, to hear some describe our package, one would assume that it spells the end of higher education as we know it. Mr. President, that is simply not the case.

Federal student loan programs were established to assist students and their parents in financing postsecondary education. These programs have been successful in achieving that goal. Approximately \$26 billion in loan funds have been made available this year. The figure will grow next year. Even if the Labor Committee package is approved intact, that volume will grow.

The reason is that the savings in this package were achieved without restricting a student's ability to borrow. In short, there is nothing in the package which limits the amount of loan funds available. Loans will continue to be available to all who qualify. There is nothing in the package which limits the ability of a student to qualify for a

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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